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INTELLIGENCE TECHNIQUES COURSE NO. 36

Chief Instructor's Comments

1. Intelligence Techniques Course No. 36 ran from 13 March to 31 March, 1967. Of the 45 students enrolled, six were internals--an unusually low proportion.

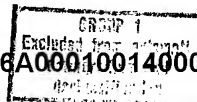
2. This course, the first in the new back-to-back sequence, has run smoothly despite the illness of one of our instructors, and despite the fact that neither of our new training assistants, (who performed heroically), had had previous experience with this course. The enrollment of 45 (compared with 66 in the previous ITC) made possible sections of manageable size, with two instructors assigned to each section.

3. The over-all level of performance of the class was "P plus," which is normal, and is comparable to an "S-" or "S" on the average Agency fitness report. A correlation of individual CT performances with their A&E pre-test rankings indicates that there is little, if any, correlation. In each of the nine pre-test percentile groupings as many performed above the class average as below. Indeed, the 25 students in the lower half of the percentile groupings achieved a slightly higher proportion of above-average ratings than did the 20 in the upper half.

4. As an experiment with this class, we let the CT's write their own course reports on an "Evaluation" form which we gave them at the end of the course. Exactly one-half of the Trainees signed the completed forms, indicating their willingness to work with us on any follow-up we would like to make on their suggestions and recommendations.

5. The key to the Evaluation form was the open-ended first question: "How well have the stated goals of this course been satisfied?" The ninety percent favorable response to this question was most encouraging. Some of the specific comments were even flattering: "outstanding," "tremendous challenge," "the diversity, the pressure, and the manner in which it was presented," "a look at how an analyst is to analyze material," "acquaintance with the DDI," "the functioning of the DDI as a component of the Agency," "quite well, though I am leaving the course with a feeling of comparative failure," "guidance and practice in report/briefing preparation under pressure was good," "acquainting the student with the work of the DDI, and exposing him to techniques used in all parts of the Agency," "the student was introduced to the CIA Library and other useful sources of

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materials," "the best way to understand," "I have a much better idea of the types of specialized reporting expected of people in DDI," "I think the essence of DDI work was evident from the course presentation," "practical work experience," "variety of exercises and briefings," "the course has done an excellent job of familiarizing me with the DDI," "good insight as to the kind of people needed to do this type of work," "vivid idea of what life is like in the DDI," "an understanding of the type of work each component performs," "actually doing the exercises put it across," "sharpens one's communication skills," "good understanding of DDI activities and, further, have an appreciation of some of their problems," "excellent," "effective," "the assignments were challenging, to say the least." The only flippant reply (unsigned) to the goals question was: "What stated goals?" However, this same student indicated that he had, if unwittingly, got the message when, under "Other comments," he added: "Good introduction to problem solving under pressure in DDI." One CT, evidently tired of being graded so much, turned the WAPSO scale on us and gave us a "P" for the course! Of the three negative responses, one was based on the writer's inability as yet to decide on the direction his career should take; two, on the feeling (derived from our realistic presentation of DDI work) that the course "may have discouraged many people from considering the DDI." In a follow-up conference with our severest critic (and one of our best students) it turned out that his big gripe was lack of time--that he felt this was really a "great course" which should be extended to four weeks. *||*

6. New elements in this running of the course were *how did it go* → 1) a "Requirements Exercise," designed to give the student experience in writing and evaluating requirements; 2) a programmed unit in map reading; 3) a new NIE exercise based on a recent ONE Communist China estimate; and 4) the weekly OCI briefing. This last, incidentally, was the only element of the course with which a significant number of students were unhappy; some have suggested that it might be improved by having each briefing centered on a particular country or intelligence problem. Whether this is done or not, the problems and exercises in the course are rapidly being up-dated and will be maintained on a current basis within the limitations of logistical practicability. *|| good*

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Chief Instructor